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Songs and memories

Read Gail Stelter's Writing on the Senior Side article about Christmas carols on page 2.

O, Christmas Tree

Learn about the history of this holiday tradition in this week's editorial on page 6.

Santa came to visit Stanhope on Dec. 2 before their annual tree lighting in the evening. /TIM YANO Special to *County Life*

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Writing on the Senior Side

Carols and candles

GAIL STELTER
Special to *County Life*

"If music be the food of love, play on give me excess of it," said William Shakespeare.

If carols be the love of Christmas, sing on, give me excess of it, says I.

We know that music is compelling. Hearing is one of the first senses to develop, and we can remember sounds and songs from our childhood long before we learn to communicate. Music is especially essential to the well-being and happiness of those with dementia. It is not unusual to hear a song from our youth and to immediately remember the words without trying or being conscious of doing so. It is interesting to note that in dementia the brain is damaged but the part that responds to music is one of the last parts that seems to go. Alzheimer's disease is caused by a buildup of protein deposits that control short-term memory. This means that people with Alzheimer's are living in their past and long-term memories. And what long-term memories could be more joyful than the ones that flow from Christmas?

Mom says, "Gates, did you know that *I'll be Home for Christmas* and *Blue Christmas* were war songs? And yes, I do like the way Elvis sings *Blue Christmas*."

Dad says, "Gates, the Ray Coniff Christmas album is on we are going to sing every song. Then afterwards, how fast can we sing *The 12 Days of Christmas*?"

Mom says, "No, let's put on Perry or Bing."

So many family favourites: *Silver Bells* and *White Christmas*… the list goes on and on. The magic comes every year. You too can make the magic happen. Just sing the carols and songs of your loved ones. You will be transported back to your childhood family, forward to the tender years of your children and, finally, to today's joys.

Peter sings *Silent Night*: *Stille Nacht* in German in memory of his mom. I sing along too. I learned this beautiful German carol when, as a child and preteen, I sang in the choir for Midnight Mass. You are surprised to learn that this not-very-good singer was in the choir. Perhaps they were desperate or perhaps a wise choir leader knew you didn't turn away an enthusiastic child. It was much later that I realized she always put me beside someone who could carry a tune or had me sing the alto parts.

Holiday music can reduce the stress levels of all of us. Christmas carols and songs can jump-start that holiday feeling. So, don't miss a chance to sing. Sing along with the radio. Put on a CD. Find your favourites on YouTube or put a lovely long-forgotten LP (long-playing) record on the old stereo.

Sing your mom and dad's favourites and the magic will happen. You can hear them. They will be singing with you. Sing the rock 'n roll Christmas songs and you are back in the 50s and 60s with your siblings and friends. Sing the "new" songs. Well, maybe just one or two will do, and these cannot include *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer*.

"It is better to light one small candle of gratitude than to curse the darkness," said Confucius.

It is better to light one small Christmas candle of past love than to succumb to loneliness, says I.

The older we get the greater the chance that they may have gone before; that they live too far away; that they don't keep in touch; that they have health and memory concerns or more. For many of those living on the senior side, seasonal loneliness can be a condition of Christmas. The pain can be eased by adding even a few festive touches to your room or home. Reflect on past holidays with your cherished decorations. Perhaps one of these will be a candle; a candle of past love and joy that will bring you present and future peace. Light just one candle and pause to reflect and feel the glow.

It's Christmas Eve and the five o'clock family mass is over. We are on the way home singing along to Ann Murray's Christmas tape/CD. I am still smiling as I remember looking down from my seat on the altar trying to find my little ones; my five-year-old daughter and six-year-old son. Mass is starting, and I am one of the readers. The church is packed; standing room only. I search out the pew: fourth row, right side of the church. I search out Peter and mouth and whisper, "Where are they?"

He smiles and turns with the congregation to welcome the entrance procession. We sing *O Come All Ye Faithful* and my eyes search. They are in the procession carrying the baby Jesus to the nativity. The nativity is aglow with candles. My heart is also glowing. I remember those nativity candles and I remember this moment in time.

Later, the kids bounce into the house. Kids are always bouncing on Christmas Eve. Well, maybe Peter and I bounce a little too.

"Mom, can I light the candles?"

Before I can answer, he is zooming around the living and family rooms and all the candles are lit… real candles with fire!

"Dad put on the Christmas records."

Oops, a lampshade is burning. Put it out. Oh well, the hole in the shade is now a new memory.

We set out all the food and treats and come to the table: four excited kids, two grandmas and two parents. Our little group is complete and the fun begins. I will not think about all the wrapping and assembling of toys that will happen much later. We enjoy the moment. We let our candles glow (and we don't forget to blow them out before the wrapping commences).

Somewhere along life's path, we made a switch to the battery candles. I guess they are safer but have you noticed that no one cares if they are lit even if they seem to flicker? They are not real. I am done with them. I am switching back to real candles. Christmas 2023 will include large real red candles in the wreath holders on the Christmas table and the tall white ones on the fireplace mantel and perhaps a new candle centrepiece just to mark the occasion.

When I light those real candles on Christmas Eve, I will remember my mom and dad and brother and Peter's mom and brother. I will remember my love for all my children and grandchildren. I will be beyond grateful as I realize that I am still alive to remember. It will be a new tradition and, oh yes, I will do my best not to burn the lampshades, tablecloths or garlands.

Merry Christmas! May you sing your favourite Christmas carol with joy. May a Christmas candle bring you peace.

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at 613-332-2002 or melissa@haliburtonpress.com

Get The Word Out
Let people know about your event. Send it in to our FREE community events listing in the Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life. Email the basics to Pat Lewis: classifieds@haliburtonpress.com or call us at 705-457-1037.

Warming up
The Stanhope Tree Lighting was a full festive night of Christmas carols, decorations, and hot food. /TIM YANO Special to the *County Life*

Wish

Trail, veiled, in a skin of Snow,
shrouding Earth and the remains of
leaves, their trees, arching over them,
their girth, withered,
yet still they retain the shapes of
giant leaves, my eyes, tracing their outlines,
marveling at the symmetry of their branches,
their trunks, like spines, grounding
the trees, as they reach higher, towards Sky,
stray leaves dangling from some of
their crowns, like rusted medallions,
that Wind wasn't able to steal,
as it plundered the trees, of their
leaves, a brittleness, masking their strength,
as their stems cling to their twigs,
refusing to let go,
needles of Rain and clumps of wet
Snow, drenching their faces, Wind,
chafing their skin,
yet still, they remain, these tarnished
leaves, adorning the crowns of their trees.
My eyes roam through the forest of
bare branches, as I walk, searching for nests, or flecks of birds,
grey ones, tiny as burrs, perched in
the crook of a naked maple, their feathers blending in with the bark of the tree,
making me wish I had such camouflage, sometimes, so I could observe,
without being seen.
I listen to their chirps, painting Air,
the colour of spring, though Snow
cloaks the ground,
the sound of their song, enlivening
the monochrome of the world that surrounds them,
ink clouds spilling across the dome
of Sky, smudging the silhouettes of hills
that slouch in the distance.
I walk towards them, taking my time,
watching smears of black birds, flap through Air,
silent in their flight, until they land
on a branch and begin to warble, making me feel less alone as I walk,
these flecks of Life, serenading me
with their song, straightening my spine,
as I peer down at the tall grasses,
stooping in the Snow,
between bushes, stripped bare by
Wind, berries, still dangling from their branches,
there, for birds or other creatures to
snatch, as I pause to feel the tiny globes,
their skin, puckered from the cold.
I pluck one from its branch, knead
it between my fingers, like a bead,
inhaling Air, swelling with the smell of Snow,
listening to the silence between the
birds' chirps, as I release the berry from my hand,
watching it make a pockmark in the Snow.
I stand here, on the trail, for a few
moments longer, still as the trees that arch over me,
whispering a wish, or maybe a
prayer, into the stillness of Air, that
Wind snatches and carries across the sea,
swirling alongside millions of others'
pleas, for seeds of peace to take root
beneath the parched earth,
so tendrils of hope can grow, in that
ancient place that's shrouded in flesh
instead of Snow.

Sylvie Kalenda

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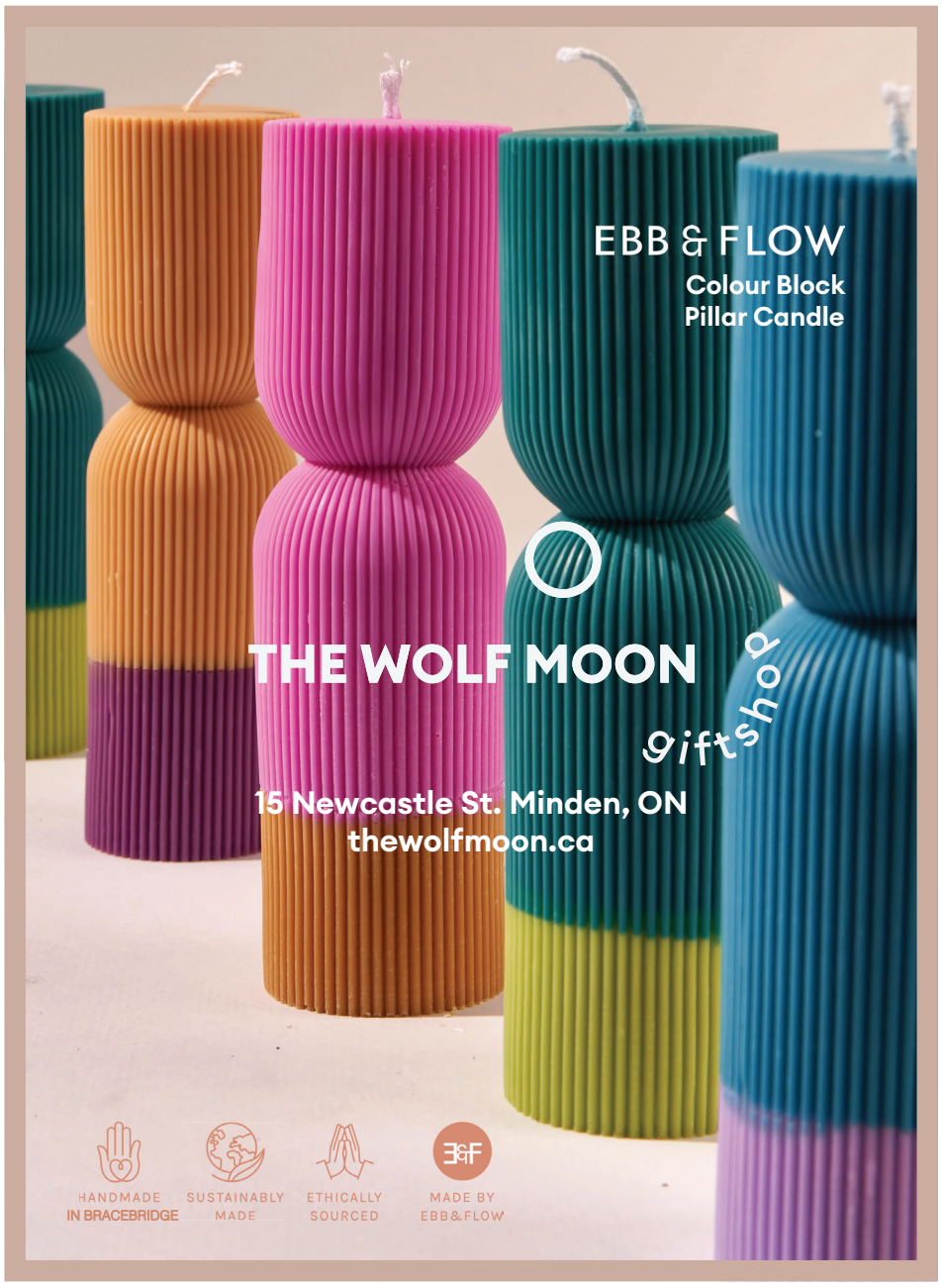

Christmases not so long ago

KATE BUTLER
Special to *County Life*

If you're a regular listener to The Time Warp on Canoe FM, you may have already heard this musing from me, but I've recently been thinking about the history of Christmas trees in Haliburton County.

While there can be no doubt that this area has long provided a plethora of evergreens for holiday decorating, I wonder if families with links to the local lumbercamps and mills really wanted to deal with more trees, especially trees inside their homes, when they were such a ubiquitous part of their daily lives?

Okay, my tongue is firmly in my cheek on that one, but it does make you wonder!

The holidays are a great time to think about those threads of continuity that connect us with our community's history. Even with the huge changes that have taken place over the last, say, 160 years, early settlers would still recognize our holiday celebrations.

We do know that trees were decorated for the holidays in Haliburton's early days, albeit simply, and likely with natural materials and paper decorations. Probably some of those paper decorations were even tucked away and brought back out from year to year, bringing with them memories of Christmases past.

Decorating with greenery had long been a holiday tradition in many parts of the world - a way to brighten dark evenings and a reminder that spring would return - but Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were the influencers of their day and when images circulated of them decorating a tree, others wanted to follow suit and embrace a tradition which has remained popular throughout the decades since.

If you select a holiday classic to read or watch, you might also be following in the footsteps of early settlers. Charles Dickens' tale, A Christmas Carol, with its timeless message of holiday spirit (and many spirits) was first published in 1843. "A Visit from St. Nicholas", known more commonly today as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas", is actually marking 200 years since its publication. Even after two centuries, the poem's depiction of Santa and his reindeer remains so iconic that I bet you can even recite a few lines off by heart.

Christmas is a time of year which seems to be inextricably linked with music and while the repertoire grows with new releases every year, it's lovely to think that some of the tunes we hear performed by local choirs and music groups could also have been heard in the mid-19th century. Favourite carols at that time would have depended on family roots and religious affiliations, as well as personal taste.

As communities around the county grew and became close-knit, favourites were also likely exchanged. They may have included such well-known tunes as "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" "I Saw Three Ships" or "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night." Jingle Bells might even have made an appearance, although, according to many, it was first intended as a song for Thanksgiving!

While lighting up a dark winter evening has long been part of celebrations this time of year, I imagine early settlers would be dazzled by today's holiday light displays around Haliburton County. From the massive lighted tree outside Haliburton's Village Barn, to the coloured lights which blink, sparkle or just simply glow on local houses and businesses, our displays would seem a far cry from simple candles and lanterns. That said, they carry a simple message that travels well through the years - that of making spirits bright.

Hope some of that brightness makes it into your week!

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Tickets for the 2024 Cash Calendar
When: Now until sold out
Where: Multiple Locations
The Haliburton and District Lions Club is now selling tickets for their 2024 Super Cash Calendar. Three draws happen the second Monday of every month from Jan. 8 to Oct. 14, 2024. Visit www.haliburtonlions.com.

Contract Bridge
When: Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon
Where: Minden United Church basement, 21 Newcastle Street
Our weekly contract bridge has resumed. All levels of skill welcomed.

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us, starting Thursday November 2nd, for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cribbage and Euchre
When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Please join us Tuesdays for cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. With funding from the Government of Ontario. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for

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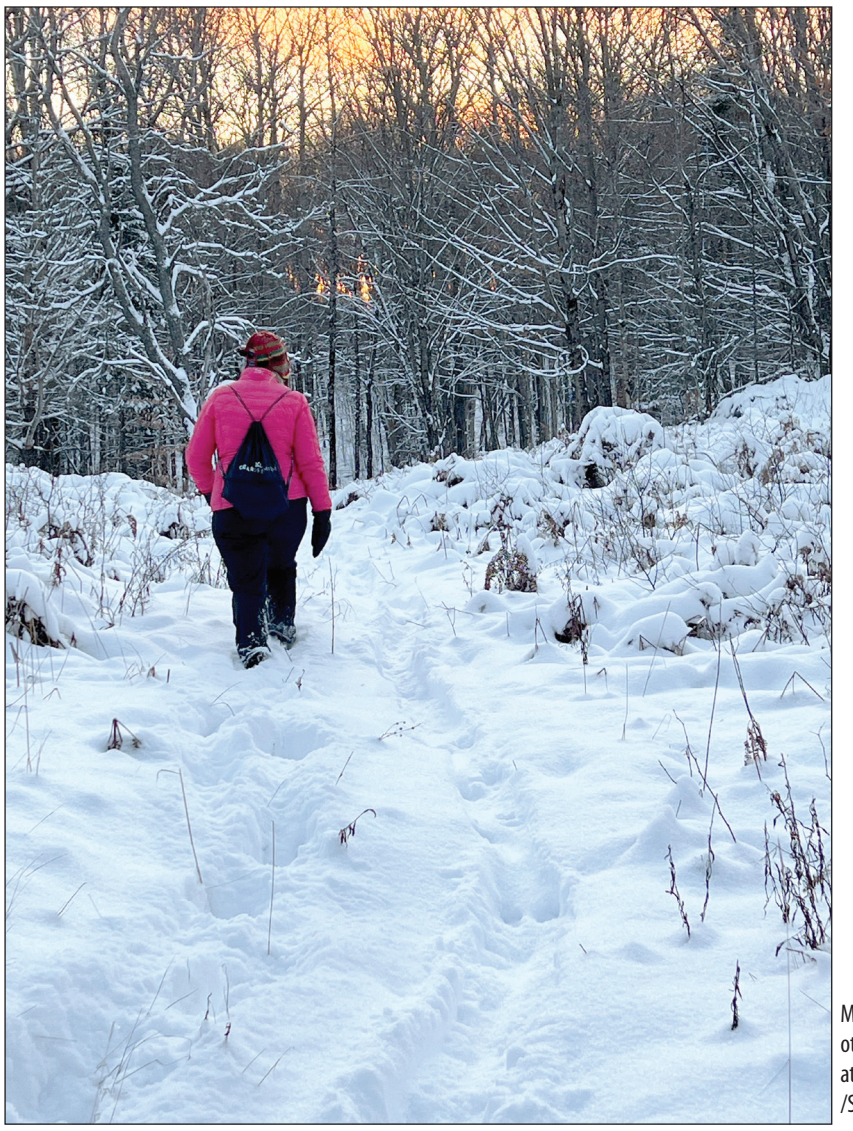
Community Christmas Dinner- Free to All
When: Dec. 16, 1 to 5 p.m.
Where: Kinmount Legion (upstairs), 5074 Cty Rd 503
The Kinmount Legion and Ladies Auxiliary invite you to join them for a free Christmas dinner. Bring donations for the Kinmount food bank. Do you know a senior or someone who cannot get out or does not drive who would appreciate a dinner with all the trimmings? Please give us their name so we can deliver a meal to them on Sunday December 17, 2023. Contact Christine Ferren at 705-928-7447.

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A Red Squirrel. /Submitted by Tammy Nash



Michele Coneybeare follows an otter slide for many kilometres at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. /Submitted by Sheila Ziman

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O, Christmas Tree

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA
County Life Staff

IN ANTICIPATION of the holiday season, we decorated our Christmas tree two weeks ago.

It may seem a little early for some, but we love the warm feeling it gives us and just couldn't wait. The holidays come and go so quickly, what's the harm in extending it a little?

Decorating the tree is always something I look forward to. It's a time to play some holiday tunes, prepare a little evening snack, share stories, and laugh about the holidays over the years.

We carefully hang up cherished old ornaments that have been passed down through the family for generations – the delicate glass bulb that used to hang on grandma's tree or the tacky paper cut-out I made in Kindergarten – each one telling a story that brings old memories flooding back.

Decorating a Christmas Tree is not just about the physical act of hanging ornaments and stringing lights. It's about creating a space that is filled with love, warmth, and joy. It's about taking a moment to pause to appreciate the beauty of the season and the blessings in our lives.

As I reflected on how much meaning is held in this simple ritual, I began wondering – as a history graduate does – what is the history of the Christmas Tree and where does this tradition come from? I discovered that its significance runs much deeper than just the commercialized holidays we have become accustomed to.

The fascinating tale of the Christmas Tree dates back thousands of years, intertwining with various cultures and traditions.

One of the earliest records of using evergreen trees as part of winter celebrations can be traced back to ancient Egypt, Rome, and China. These civilizations believed that evergreen trees symbolized life and fertility because of their everlasting colour. They would decorate these trees with fruits, nuts, and candles to honor their gods and bring hope for the upcoming spring.

Similarly, medieval Scandinavian tradition involved decorating houses and barns with evergreens as a way to scare off unwelcoming spirits.

According to The United States National Christmas Tree Association (yes, it's a real thing), the first decorated Christmas Tree came from Riga, Latvia, where it was danced around in the marketplace and then set on fire, in 1510.

By the 1600s it became commonplace for German households to have an evergreen tree in their homes during the holidays. They were commonly decorated with apples to symbolize the "paradise tree" originating from the Bible's Adam and Eve story.

The Christmas Tree spread throughout Europe, was brought to Asia by European missionaries, and became especially popular in England throughout the 1800s.

The tradition quickly spread to America soon after, where it became an integral part of Christmas celebrations and a huge commercial industry.

The first artificial Christmas Tree was sold in 1883 in the United States – for fifty cents!

The modern-day Christmas Tree has come a long way from its humble beginnings. Today, there are countless varieties of trees to choose from, ranging from traditional evergreens to artificial trees made from a variety of materials. Many families have their own unique traditions when it comes to decorating their trees, some opting for a specific color scheme or theme.

While we seem to be unable to imagine Christmas without the Christmas Tree, it does have quite a detrimental impact on the environment and a sense of wastefulness that we tend to turn a blind eye to during the holidays.

Some people have suggested that we might consider using a potted tree instead of cutting one down so that it can be reused or replanted after the holiday season.

And while it seems slightly silly or even challenging to change our traditions, I say – why not?

The tradition of the Christmas Tree has evidently changed drastically over hundreds of years. And after all, the significance of it is not twinkling lights or pricey ornaments.

It's the time spent with those who matter most to us that makes it a meaningful tradition.

Regardless of how we choose to celebrate, let us embrace the changes that each year brings. And find acceptance for the different ways that families decide to spend the holidays. Because no matter what is on the dinner table or under the tree, we can all find special meaning in taking time to be grateful for the simple things in life.

Top 10 reasons why your new boots are too tight

IT HAPPENS to us all. We order boots on-line and, sometimes, they just don't fit. Then you are left wondering why. Does the company that makes the boots have their own unique way of sizing? Have your feet shrunk or grown? Well, sometimes the answer is a little more complex than that. Here are the top 10 reasons your boots are too tight.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Remember, it's only one foot per boot….
2. Human boots, Hobbit feet.
3. Admit it, you are long overdue for toenail clipping.
4. The person in charge of placing size labels on boots "just having a little fun."
5. Do you really need three pairs of socks?
6. Toes front, heel back…..
7. Forgot to take the paper out.
8. Read size 6 label size upside down.
9. Corporations cutting back on size as part of cost saving measure.
10. Next time order boots not booties.

Moment

Today the last loon left the lake
With final warble of its place
That singsong knowledge in the face
Of winter as it knuckles down

The ripples freeze to harder edge
Strange circles bumping other floats
Of ice so that no fishing boats
Can move through snowflake tumbleweeds

The only other sound's the cheep
Of nuthatch as it climbs the bark
Comes down again as it grows dark
Still loon feels urge for going now

By Deborah J Reed

A White-Breasted Nuthatch. / Submitted by Jill Moulton

Nature in your backyard

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A Downy Woodpecker. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

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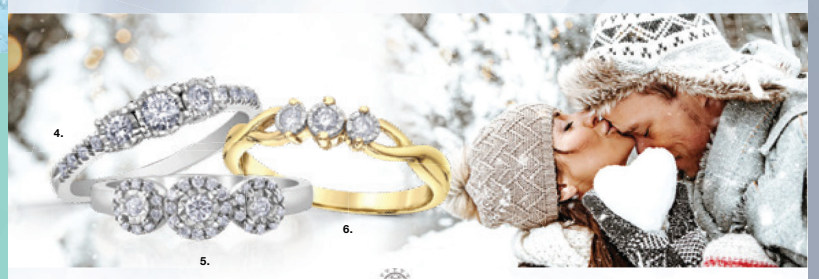

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- 900 ft of shoreline, 5.9 acres
- Smooth rocky point with pines
- Gentle lot well treed, gorgeous sunsets
- Lightly developed lake with balance of shoreline crown
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SIRCH Community Kitchen Meal Recipient

SIRCH receives no government funding for this program. We depend on your donations.

Please donate what you can:

- VISA or Mastercard: 705-457-1742 monthly, quarterly or 1-time
- Online: scan the QR Code or go to our website: sirch.on.ca
- E-transfer: donate@sirch.on.ca
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SIRCH community services

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However, the need continues to grow!

"We see a lot of malnourished people, and having healthy meals from SIRCH is a blessing. It keeps people from starving ... not just from malnutrition, but from starving!"

Community distributor of SIRCH CK meals

By donating generously to SIRCH, your contributions will help us continue to tackle food insecurity in our community.

Please mail this form to SIRCH Community Services, P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Avenue, Unit 4, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0.

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $_____

☐ I wish to make a monthly donation on my credit card. Amount $_____

☐ Cheque enclosed (payable to SIRCH Community Services)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Card Expiry Date: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____ Card CCV: _____

Name: _____Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Registered charity #130588767 RR0001

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Patriots Jr "A"

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Sunday, Dec. 31
2 p.m.

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For more information please visit our website

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Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Dec. 14 - 2 to 6 p.m.
Dec. 15 - Open 2 to 8 p.m.
Fish/Chips 5 to 8 p.m.
Dec. 16 - 2 to 6 p.m. Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Dec. 17 to 19 - Closed
Dec. 20 - Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.
Tree of Warmth at Branch 624 is now accepting donations for the Cardiff and Wilberforce elementary school children. Homemade or store bought socks, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks would be appreciated for Grades JK to 8. Take your donations to the Wilberforce Legion, Wednesdays to Saturdays 2 to 6 p.m. or drop off at Agnews General store.
President's Levy – Dec. 30 3 to 6 p.m. Drop In- Refreshments
If you are planning an event our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

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CONTEST CLOSES: 11:59PM DECEMBER 21, 2023.
DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MOOSE FM STATION IN HALIBURTON AT NOON ON DECEMBER 22, 2022.
WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE.

Contest open to all legal residents of Ontario. Adult prize winner(s) must be 19 years of age or older. Grand prize winner receives a Total of $1500.00 (One thousand Five hundred dollars) in gift certificate from any Haliburton B.I.A member. Gift Certificate(s) can be one in the full amount of $1500, or multiple denominations of no less than $100. The Grand prize total is not to exceed $1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. *Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.*

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Please join the HHHS Foundation team in wishing

Carol Simmons

all the best in retirement!

After 13 years of phone calls, donations, bears, memorial cards and 50/50 tickets… Carol has decided it is time for the next chapter.

We will miss the laughter and expertise she shares so willingly and hope that she takes time to enjoy her hobbies and her dedication to the Irondale community.

Thank you, Carol, for your years of service, hard work, and commitment to raising funds for the health of our community. May your retirement be filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures.

With gratitude and fondness from the Foundation and HHHS teams.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION
A Foundation for the Health of the Highlands

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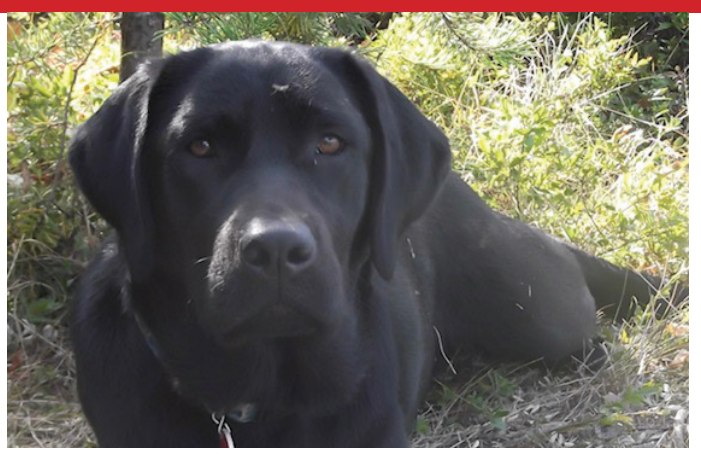
Must be 19 Years of Age or Older
Raffle ticket to be drawn
Friday December 15 @ 12 noon.

Fuel for Warmth Inc.
Because no one should go cold

425 LOST

LOST DOG



Opal

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435 VOLUNTEERS

The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity that works to reduce food insecurity in the surrounding areas, is seeking new volunteers to join our Board of Directors. We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communications skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental, healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills. If you have skills, time, and experience in any of the following management disciplines: general administration, financial, asset campaign, or social media, plus the desire to help, we would like to hear from you by January 5 2024. Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interests in food insecurities, program ideas to support our mandate, your background, skill set, and experience. Send your e-mail to mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com.

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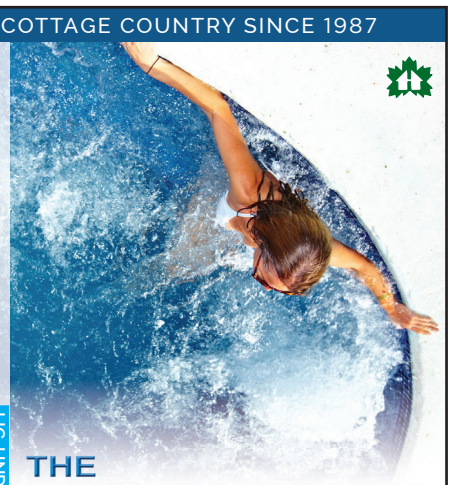

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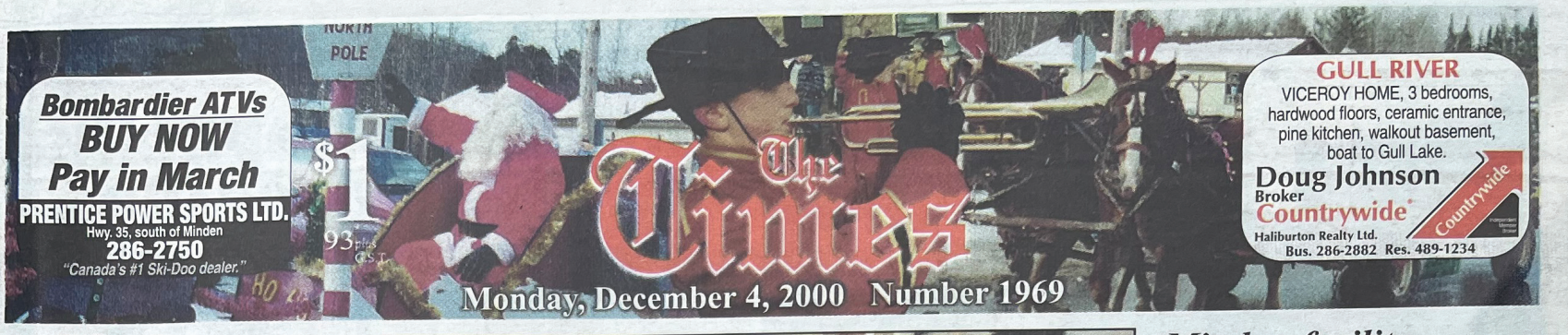

The Times
Monday, December 4, 2000 Number 1969

GULL RIVER
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Christmas open house

The bed and breakfast operators of the Highlands opened their doors to the public this weekend. It was their first ever Christmas open house and from all reports the tour attracted an enthusiastic group. Nine bed and Breakfast establishments were all decked out for the Christmas season, many featuring festive music and refreshments. Those with a Christmas Tour passport, could also stop by the Rails End Gallery afternoon tea. The proceeds from the tour will be donated to the Halibuton Highlands Guild of Fine Arts. Lenore Pristol of Ingoldsby and her granddaughter, Liz Chapman of Lindsay, below were two of the many visitors at Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast while Joan Meadows, right, greeted visitors with her Christmas crafts at the Down Home Bed and *Breakfast in Haliburton.*

Minden facility

Hospital on the move December 12

by Matthew Sitler

The new Minden Hospital will open its doors in less than two weeks time.

"Officially, we will be moving into the site on December 11 and 12," said Haliburton Highlands Health Services Executive Director Foster Loucks. "We will try to maintain normal operations, but there is likely to be some disruption during the move," he added.

The move will be co-ordinated with the Haliburton Ambulance Service so that they are aware of the change in location and exactly when it occurs. The executive director is asking that, during the transition, only people with true emergencies go to the hospital for treatment. Those who may consider using it as a walk-in clinic are asked to use other services in the community or

(more on page 3)

O'Reilly adds to Liberal victory

By Matthew Sitler

Incumbent Liberal MP John O'Reilly took the Victoria-Haliburton-Brock riding last Monday evening with a stunning lead over the other three party candidates.

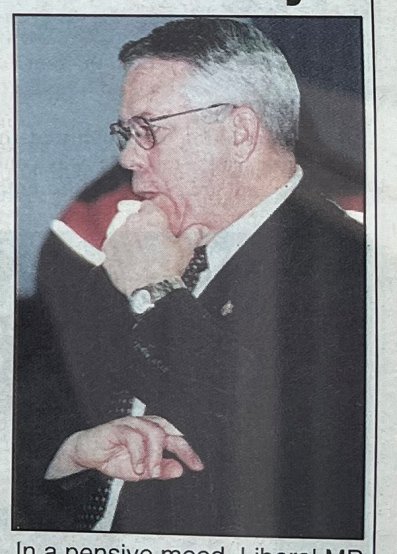
Early during election eve, O'Reilly commented that he felt the race was between himself and Conservative Candidate Laurie Scott. What the polls showed by night's closing was a strong second place finish for Alliance Candidate Pat Dunn.

O'Reilly's win was just part of a province-wide Liberal sweep that crushed all Canadian Alliance Party inroads.

The final numbers were: 16,564 votes for O'Reilley; 15, 505 for Pat Dunn; and Laurie Scott third with 14, 426 votes; NDP Candidate Rick Denyer with 2,396 votes.

The re-elected Liberal MP holds aspirations to become House Speaker during his next term in Ottawa saying he would like to make changes to the institution.

O'Reilly, who campaigned on the strength of his past record, defended the early election call saying the end of November was the only date until next fall which was available.



In a pensive mood, Liberal MP John O'Reilly watches the results Monday evening.

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BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

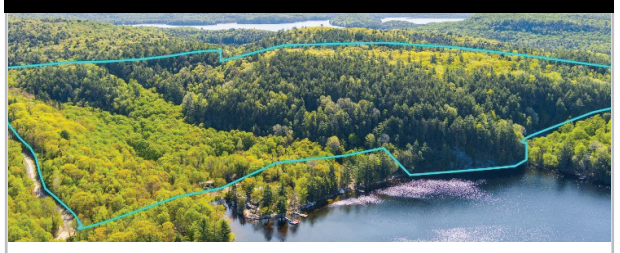
KENNISIS LAKE
$1,675,000

4 X BED
3 X BATH
94.31 FT. FRONTAGE
MUNICIPAL ROAD
MLS# 404669724

GELERT ROAD
$1,639,000

3 X BED
3 X BATH
14 ACRES
2500+ SQ.FT
MLS# 40499725

HALIBURTON LAKE
$999,000



169 ACRES
SOUTHWEST EXPOSURE
3 X BED
2 X BATH
MLS# 40424313

SALERNO LAKE ROAD
$449,500

2.76 ACRES
OFF GRID
3 X BED
1 X BATH
MLS# 40487128

BETHEL ROAD
$195,000

330 FT. FRONTAGE
24.65 ACRES
MUNICIPAL ROAD
MLS# 40476956

ABLETT COURT
$699,000

MLS# 40500660

HWY 35
$549,000

MLS# 40463263

KERNOHAN FARM TRAIL
$137,500

MLS# 40472855

BRADY LAKE ROAD
$210,000

MLS# 40497548

From our home to yours, we wish you a safe and happy Holiday Season!

Nicole P. Barb Karen Rosemarie Linda Nicole Baxter Stef Nicole B.

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